

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 233855

NODIS
MANILA FOR STULL ONLY FROM HOLBROOKE, JAKARTA FOR NEWSOM

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, RP

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO MARCOS

1. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO SEE MARCOS AS SOON AS CONVENIENT TO
FOLLOW UP ON OUR DISCUSSION BOTH OF MRS. MARCOS' MEETING
WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND OUR PROBLEMS WITH ADDITIONAL FMS
FOR FY 77.

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2. THE MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS,
ROMULO AND ENRILE IS SCHEDULED FOR 1700, OCTOBER 4 WHILE
THEIR MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IS SET FOR 1730, SEPT. 29.
WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT MRS. MARCOS WILL BE PRESENT FOR THESE
MEETINGS AS HEAD OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION AND BOTH THE
PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO DISCUSSING
WITH HER ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

3. THE ADDITIONAL FMS HAS BEEN DEFINITELY CANCELLED, NOT ONLY FOR THE PHILIPPINES BUT FOR THE OTHER COUNTRIES WHO WERE ALSO PROGRAMMED FOR A SHARE OF UNEXPENDED FY 77 FMS FUNDS (E.G., INDONESIA, MOROCCO, TUNISIA). THIS FINAL DECISION WAS TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT AFTER CAREFUL STUDY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL SITUATION AND INTERNAL BUDGETARY QUESTIONS.

4. YOU CAN TELL MARCOS THAT I NOW UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED LAST WEEK WITH RESPECT TO THE PHILIPPINES AND CONGRESS AND I WOULD LIKE HIM TO KNOW WHAT THE FACTS ARE. AS HE KNOWS, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAD VOTED A LOWER AMOUNT FOR THE PHILIPPINES (MAP, FMS, AND IMET) THAN THE SENATE COMMITTEE. WHEN THE HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE MET, THE SENATE CONFEREES (INCLUDING SENATOR INOUE) STRONGLY URGED THAT THE HOUSE LEVELS FOR THE PHILIPPINES BE RAISED SUBSTANTIALLY IF NOT COMPLETELY RESTORED. THE HOUSE CONFEREES REJECTED OUTRIGHT THESE EFFORTS BY THE SENATE AS WELL AS THE ADMINISTRATION TO EFFECT ANY CHANGE ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, INCLUDING THE PHILIPPINES. INSTEAD, THEY DECIDED TO TAKE THE ENTIRE BILL BACK TO THE HOUSE FLOOR FOR A RENEWED AND BITTER DEBATE, AND ANOTHER VOTE ON ALL THE UNRESOLVED ISSUES. THIS CREATED, AS I TOLD MARCOS, A VERY DIFFICULT CLIMATE FOR ADDING FMS FY 77 CREDITS FOR
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THE PHILIPPINES, EVEN THOUGH PRIOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL WAS NOT LEGALLY NECESSARY. AS OF SEPTEMBER 27 THE ENTIRE APPROPRIATIONS BILL WAS STILL LOCKED IN A CONTROVERSY WHICH WILL CONTINUE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30 (THE DEADLINE FOR REDISTRIBUTING FY 77 FMS CREDITS). IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE FINAL NOT TO PROCEED WITH ADDITIONAL FMS FY 77 FOR THE PHILIPPINES. CHRISTOPHER

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